

FAMILY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Domestic and family violence is occurring at an alarming rate and the problem is compounded by the lack of services available to the victims of these crimes. The services that are available are insufficient, as many areas are experiencing problems with effective investigation and prosecution of domestic and family cases.

Multi-disciplinary teams are needed to address the growing problem of family, domestic, and child violence. These teams are also needed to educate criminal justice professionals about the nature and scope of the problem. Currently victims receive few services and those that are provided do not address the complexity of issues associated with family, child, and domestic violence. Multi-disciplinary teams provide improved services to the growing number of victims of these crimes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Family and Domestic Violence program area promotes a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to family violence, domestic violence, and child abuse. This strategy promotes partnerships among criminal justice agencies to reduce the number of incidents within the community.

Family and domestic violence interacts with the criminal justice system in the form of a number of criminal behaviors including assault and battery, harassment, breaking and entering, violation of protection orders, malicious destruction of property, sexual assault, stalking, elderly abuse, and child abuse.

Criminal justice agencies should collaborate among themselves and in formal partnership with victim advocates and child protective services. Victim safety and removing the obstacles to appropriate police response are paramount in developing a project. Victim advocates should have input into proactive criminal justice intervention programs.

Primary emphasis for family and domestic violence strategies is the development of effective and efficient crime reduction strategies for police. Projects should ensure implementation of effective practices into department-wide policies and procedures. Tracking systems to ensure communication between police, prosecutors, and both criminal and family courts is a requirement, and must be in place or implemented during the project period.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal # 1	Promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice response to family violence, domestic violence, and child abuse.
Objective # 1	Increase the knowledge of the nature of family violence, domestic violence and child abuse through coordinated education programs.
Activities	Train and provide professional development for criminal justice practitioners in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse and family violence. Coordinate community education and prevention programs.
Performance Measures	Pre and post attitudinal and knowledge-based tests for criminal justice professionals who attend training. Community surveys, which measure the knowledge of citizens about domestic violence and child abuse after community education campaigns have been instituted.
Objective # 2	Increase the coordination of criminal justice professionals and victim service and social service agencies.
Activities	Implement partnership agreements or memorandums of understanding to form an integrated problem solving team between police, prosecutors, courts, probation, and victim service agencies including domestic violence shelters and child protective services. Create and regularly attend existing local domestic violence task force and child abuse council meetings.
Performance Measures	Statistics on the number of persons attending local council and task force meetings. Analysis of contents of memorandums of agreement and other partnership agreements.
Objective # 3	Increase the rate of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for family violence, domestic violence, and child abuse crimes.

Activities	Execute a pro-arrest or mandatory arrest policy. Arrange for temporary restraining or no-contact order. Enforce bench warrants for probation violations. Create a specialized domestic violence, child abuse or family violence unit. Pursue cases without victim testimony utilizing evidence based prosecution methodologies. Keep offender files containing information on previous arrests and convictions.
Performance Measures	Statistics on the number of arrests, prosecutions, convictions, victimless prosecutions, probation revocation in comparison with numbers prior to project implementation. Conduct a community audit process for each aspect of the criminal justice process, which includes surveying professionals about the policies and procedures within their respective agency in relation to domestic violence and child abuse cases.
Objective # 4	Increase offender accountability through improved court and probation policies.
Activities	Ensure that batterers/abusers/offenders obey court orders through intense probation supervision. Implement probation policies that hold batterers accountable. Train judges, prosecutors and probation officers to be alert to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse.
Performance Measures	Survey victims on the outcome of the case and the probation system. Statistics on number of probation revocations, changes in sentence length, number of repeat offenses, offenders success in treatment and batterers intervention programs, number of home visits and number of victim contacts.
Objective # 5	Increase offender and case tracking efficiency.
Activities	Implement comprehensive tracking and case monitoring for all criminal justice agencies. Develop, install, or expand data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems that link police, prosecutors, and courts or that are designed to identify and track arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for family and domestic violence incidents.

**Performance
Measures**

Statistics on the number of computers purchased and installed, number of individuals certified in operating the new system, and the number of agencies sharing data under the new system. Compare the ease in collecting statistics before and after implementation of the new data collection system.

BJA REPORTING, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION METHODS

All projects funded through this program must report:

- The number of reported incidents and arrests for family and domestic violence and child abuse in their jurisdiction.
- The number of successful convictions concerning family and domestic violence and child abuse.
- The number of victims that received appropriate social services as a result of the project.